

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-62 (canceled).

62. (currently amended) A An ex vivo method of ~~supporting~~ promoting proliferation ~~or survival~~ of a stem cell or germ cell comprising contacting said cell with an amount of a polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises having an amino acid sequence at least 85% identical to the amino acid of SEQ ID NO: 13, 32 or 34 or the mature protein coding portion thereof and exhibits stem cell growth factor activity, and wherein said amount is effective to ~~maintain survival of or~~ promote proliferation of said cell.

63. (original) The method of claim 62 or 76 wherein said cell is a primordial germ cell, germ line stem cell, embryonic stem cell, hematopoietic stem cell, hematopoietic progenitor cell, pluripotent cell, or totipotent cell.

64. (currently amended) The method of claim 62 or 76, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13, or the mature protein coding portion thereof.

65. (currently amended) The method of ~~supporting~~ promoting proliferation ~~or survival~~ of a stem cell or germ cell comprising contacting said cell with an amount of a polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes to the complement of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12, or the mature protein coding portion thereof, under the following stringent conditions: a final wash of 0.1x SSC/0.1% SDS at 68°C,

wherein the amount is effective to ~~maintain survival of or~~ promote proliferation of said cell.

Claims 66-73 (canceled).

74. (currently amended) The method of claim 62 or 76, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32, or the mature protein coding portion thereof.

75. (currently amended) The method of claim 62 or 76, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 34, or the mature protein coding portion thereof.

76. (new) An *ex vivo* method of maintaining survival of a stem cell or germ cell comprising contacting said cell with an amount of a polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence at least 85% identical to the amino acid of SEQ ID NO: 13, 32 or 34 or the mature protein coding portion thereof and exhibits stem cell growth factor activity, and wherein said amount is effective to maintain survival of said cell.

77. (new) An *ex vivo* method of maintaining survival of a stem cell or germ cell comprising contacting said cell with an amount of a polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes to the complement of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12, or the mature protein coding portion thereof, under the following stringent conditions: a final wash of 0.1x SSC/0.1% SDS at 68°C,
wherein the amount is effective to maintain survival of said cell.